Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /087 W ------032129Z 039418 /70

R 031430Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5939
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
LISMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL BUJUMBURA 0120

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, BY

SUBJ: FURTHER SIGN OF BURUNDI'S SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA

REF: BUJUMBURA 80 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON JANUARY 31, UPRONA PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CELEBRATED THE INSTALLATION OF A "BURUNDIAN COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICY OF THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA", WITH MAYOR OF BUJUMBURA AS CHAIRMAN. HE PROMISED BACKING FOR KOREANS WHO WISH TO BE MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY AND SAID THAT BURUNDI'S CONCEPTION OF NON-ALIGNMENT REQUIRED HELP FOR PEOPLES FIGHTING COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND RACISM. HE SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED SPEECH ON KOREA GIVEN AT 30TH UNGA BY FORMER AMBASSADOR NDABANIWE (WHICH WE PROTESTED HERE). NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SAID PYONGYANG'S TIES WITH BURUNDI HAD BEEN REINFORCED SINCE NEW REGIME TOOK OVER NOVEMBER ONE.

2. OBVIOUSLY, NORTH KOREANS HAVE NOT LET ANY GRASS GROW UNDER THEIR FEET SINCE COUP D'ETAT HERE IN PUSHING NEW GOVERNMENT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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REAFFIRM PREDECESSOR REGIME'S COMMITMENT TO NORTH KOREAN SIDE. IN THIS, THEY WERE UNDOUBTEDLY AIDED BY MINORITY WITHIN NEW REGIME WHO HAVE LONG PRO-PYONGYANG HISTORY. FOR THE RECORD, WE WILL SEND A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH PROVIDES SOME PERSPECTIVE ON KOREA, BUT IT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT. THIS DEVELOPMENT HERE CERTAINLY MAKES THE PROSPECTS FOR ANY SOUTH KOREAN INROADS LESS FAVORABLE, AND SEOUL BEARS MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SLOW

RESPONSE AND INEPTNESS. NEVERTHELESS, THE LAST WORD SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN SAID ON KOREA, AND WE STILL THINK THAT THE KIND OF CAREFUL, QUIET APPROACH THAT WE HAVE URGED IN REFTEL AND PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS IS STILL WORTH THE EFFORT. MARK

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Message Attributes

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